



CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN

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April 8, 2011

Hon. Everette Varney
Mayor
City of Georgetown
100 Court Street
Georgetown, KY 40324

Dear Mayor Varney,

I am writing to you to express our most sincere appreciation for the sympathy, concern and support expressed and extended by so many of our American friends, in response to the recent tragedies in Japan.

It has been one month since the devastating earthquake and tsunami hit Japan causing massive destruction across the northern region of the country. The death toll now exceeds 12,000 people, with many more missing and/or dispossessed. The situation has been complicated by damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Despite the many challenges, the Government of Japan, with the aid of many nations, is doing everything possible to stabilize the country. Our citizens are united in their resolve to rebuild and recover.

Following the March 11th quake and tsunami, support and encouragement has poured in from around the world, led by the United States which has been the most rigorous and generous provider of assistance. The U.S. government quickly launched Operation Tomodachi, the Japanese word for "friendship". Fourteen naval ships, more than 100 aircraft and thousands of U.S. service members and rescue workers were dispatched to conduct humanitarian assistance and search-and-rescue operations. American nuclear experts are working closely

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MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY OF GEORGETOWN

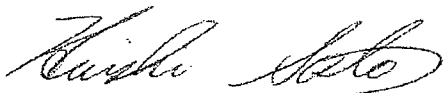
with Japanese response teams to contain the fallout from the damaged nuclear power plant. I have attached a press release from the World Health Organization (WHO) which discusses nuclear concerns in Japan for your review.

At the same time, local communities and organizations across the United States have started voluntary activities to show their support and to raise funds for the people of Japan. For instance, more than 6,000 community members gathered at the Cherry Blossom Japan Relief Event held in Nashville last month and raised over \$50,000 for the Tennessee Tomodachi Relief Fund. My staff at the Consulate and I have received countless phone calls, letters and emails over the past month from American friends expressing sympathy and support.

The compassion and generosity shown by the American people are a great comfort to the people of Japan in these difficult times. They are another demonstration of the strong partnership between our two countries, which we greatly appreciate and will never forget. While it will be a long journey to recovery in Japan, I am confident that the resilience of the Japanese people, along with the support of the United States and the world community, will make it possible for us to rise up and complete this journey.

On behalf of the people and the government of Japan, as well as the Japanese community here in the United States, I would like once again to extend my deepest gratitude for your overwhelming kindness and friendship, and to also ask for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hiroshi Sato", with a stylized, flowing script.

Hiroshi Sato
Consul General of Japan

FAQs: Japan nuclear concerns

5 April 2011

Current risk

No health risks to people living outside of Japan from damaged nuclear plants

There are no health risks so far to people living in other countries from radioactive material released into the atmosphere from the Japanese nuclear power plants. Radiation levels measured to date in other countries are far below the level of background radiation that most people are exposed to in normal every day circumstances.

What is the current risk of radiation-related health problems in Japan for those residing near the reactor in comparison to those in other parts of Japan?

- Radiation-related health consequences will depend on exposure, which is dependant on several things, including: the amount and type of radiation released from the reactor; weather conditions, such as wind and rain; a person's proximity to the plant; and the amount of time spent in irradiated areas.
- The Government of Japan's recent actions in response to events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant are in line with the existing recommendations for radiation exposure. The Government has evacuated individuals who were living within a 20-kilometre radius around the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Those living between 20 km and 30 km from the plant are being asked to evacuate voluntarily. In general, people living farther away are at lower risk than those who live nearby.
- As and if the situation changes, the Government of Japan may change their advice to the public; WHO is following the situation closely.

Is there a risk of radioactive exposure from food contamination?

- Yes, there is a risk of exposure as a result of contamination in food.
- However, contaminated food would have to be consumed over prolonged periods to represent a risk to human health.
- The presence of radioactivity in some vegetables and milk has been confirmed and some of the initial food monitoring results show radioactive iodine detected in concentrations above Japanese regulatory limits. Radioactive caesium has also been detected.
- Local government authorities have advised residents to avoid these food and have implemented measures to prevent their sale and distribution.

Are there health risks to people living outside of Japan from radiation emitted into the atmosphere from damaged Japanese nuclear power plants?

Thus far, there are no health risks to people living in other countries from radioactive material released into the atmosphere from the Japanese nuclear power plants. Radiation levels measured to date in other countries are far below the level of background radiation that most people are exposed to in every day circumstances.

Radiation levels are being monitored by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), which operates 63 surveillance stations around the world.